

PROCEEDINGS
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THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF THE SPECIES OF
CAPUCHIN MONKEYS (*Cebus* Erxleben).

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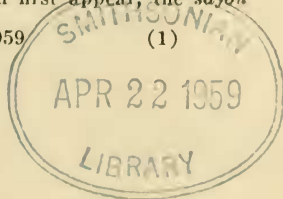
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The correct scientific name for each of the four recognized species of capuchin monkeys is (1) *Cebus apella* Linnaeus, 1758, for the tufted (or crested) capuchin; (2) *Cebus capucinus* Linnaeus 1758, for the black white-fronted capuchin; (3) *Cebus albifrons* Humboldt, 1812, for the brown pale-fronted capuchin; (4) *Cebus nigrivittatus* Wagner, 1848, for the brown, dark-limbed capuchin with the small wedge-shaped cap. It appears that the first three names are now firmly established. The validity of the fourth, *Cebus nigrivittatus*, however, has been questioned in recent years, most lately by Hill (1958:316).

The first attempt to nullify the name *nigrivittatus* Wagner as employed in my (1949) review of the genus *Cebus*, was made by Tate (1954:415). This authority argued that the name *Cebus apella* should have been used instead for the brown untufted capuchin with wedge-shaped cap. This identification was shown to be erroneous (HersHKovitz, 1955:449), and it is doubtful that anyone now seriously believes that *Cebus apella* is anything but the tufted species of *Cebus*.

The next effort to invalidate the name *Cebus nigrivittatus* was made by Husson (1957). According to my esteemed colleague, the name had been secondarily homonymized with that of a squirrel monkey, *Chrysothrix nigrivittatus* Wagner, by Pusch (1941:145), hence must be permanently suppressed. This concept of the status of secondary homonyms was disputed by me in 1949 (pp. 345, 368, 417-418) and again in 1958 (1958a: 54; 1958b:1242) and is repudiated in the as yet unpublished London (1958) draft of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature.

The latest pronouncement on the subject is by Hill (1958:318) who decided "that the scientific name of the Weeper Capuchin [i.e. *Cebus nigrivittatus*] should correctly be *Cebus griseus* F. Cuvier 1824 (1819)" Judged by the framing of his reference Hill based his proposition solely on a misinterpretation of a condensed citation worded "*sajou mâle*, Cuvier, 1824, livr. 12, pl., November 1819 (*Cebus griseus* F. Cuvier)" in my (1949:347-348) synoptic synonymy of *Cebus nigrivittatus*. In the *Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères* by E. Geoffroy St.-Hilaire and F. Cuvier (1818-1842) where the names in question first appear, the *sajou*



mâle is described and figured in *livraison* 12 under its vernacular name only. The *livraison* was separately published and issued in 1819. It was then bound with 19 other *livraisons* to form the first of seven volumes and dated 1824. It is not until the end of volume 7, on page 2 of the *Table générale et méthodique de toutes les espèces figurées et décrites dans l'Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères*, that the technical name *Cebus griseus* for the *sajou mâle* appears for the first time. The *Table* was separately issued some time after the publication of the final (67th) *livraison* in April 1833. Volume 7 itself is dated 1842, and this is the date taken for all technical names for animals described in the various *livraisons* under vernacular names only. It is also to be noted that the *Table* and all other indices of the *Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères* were compiled and published by the son of Frédéric Cuvier after the death of his father in 1838. Thus, the first technical name based on the *sajou mâle* F. Cuvier, 1819, is *Cebus griseus* F. Cuvier, *fls*, 1842.

As happens so often, the belated appearance of the *Table* permitted other authors to publish names which anticipated or preoccupied practically all those proposed by F. Cuvier, *fls*. Thus *Cebus griseus* F. Cuvier, *fls*, 1842, for the *sajou mâle*, is invalidated by *Cebus griseus* Desmarest, 1820, based primarily on the *sajou gris* of Buffon (1767). This last has been positively identified as a tufted capuchin equal to *Cebus apella* Linnaeus (cf. Hershkovitz, 1949:339, 340 and footnote 1). It is true that Desmarest referred the *sajou mâle* of Cuvier to his *Cebus griseus*, but "avec doute" (p. 82) and only as a "variété." Under no consideration can Cuvier's *sajou mâle* be treated as a type of *Cebus griseus* Desmarest.

Another capuchin with a comparable history is described by F. Cuvier in *livraison* 51, published September 1825, under the heading *sajou à pieds dorés, ou chrysope*. At the end of the article, Cuvier suggests that "le nom *chrysope* pourra servir à le désigner dans les catalogues méthodiques." Nowhere in the text is the combination of *chrysope* with a definite generic name either used or implied. The first valid name, i.e. binomial, for the *chrysope* is *Cebus chrysope*, proposed by Lesson in 1827. F. Cuvier, *fls* used exactly the same technical name in the *Table* of 1842. Like his translation of *chrysope* or *pieds dorés*, as "golden-handed," I cannot follow Hill's (1955:54) use of *chrysope* [sic] as a technical name in combination with *Cebus* dated from Cuvier, 1825, or his reasons for the identification of a mounted specimen without data in the Royal Scottish Museum, with the *sajou à pieds dorés* of F. Cuvier.

All evidence, viewed in the light of taxonomic principles and rules of nomenclature, requires that the name for the dark brown untufted capuchin with the small triangular or wedge-shaped cap remain *Cebus nigrivittatus* Wagner, 1848.

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